

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENTI 00883 270954Z
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 /072 W
-----280205Z 076910 /65

R 270850Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8183
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMCONSUL UDORN
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 0883

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SOCI PGOV PINS LA PINR
SUBJ: GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND LOCAL CITIZENS ARRESTED FOR
CORRUPTION AND PETTY CRIME

1. VARIOUS LAO SOURCES TOLD EMBOFF MAY 26 AND 27 THAT
A TOTAL OF 21 MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS IN VIENTIANE HAVE
BEEN ARRESTED SINCE MAY 21 FOR FAILURE TO KEEP ACCOUNT-
ING OF CITY SUPPLIES DONATED BY FOREIGN COUNTRIES.
SEVEN OF THE ARRESTED OFFICIALS WERE FROM THE 30-MAN
VIENTIANE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE, INCLUDING KHAMHOY,
A RADICAL STUDENT WHO IN 1975 ORGANIZED STUDENTS IN
VIENTIANE'S LYCEE IN DEMONSTRATIONS AGAINST THE U.S.

2. ACCORDING TO A GENERALLY RELIABLE LAO SOURCE,
FIFTEEN OF THE ARRESTED OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN SENT TO
PHONG SALY.

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3. APPROXIMATELY 100 LAO WERE ARRESTED ON MAY 18 AND
19 IN AND AROUND VIENTIANE. THEY HAD BEEN HIRED BY
THE GOVERNMENT TO SERVE AS GOVERNMENT MIDDLE-MEN
MERCHANTS, BUYING PRODUCE FROM LOCAL FARMERS AND
SELLING THE PRODUCE IN CITY MARKETS AT GOVERNMENT
PRICES. THE EFFORT, AN ATTEMPT TO FORCE PRIVATE MER-
CHANTS TO SELL AT THE LOWER GOVERNMENT PRICES, FAILED

WHEN THESE GOVERNMENT MERCHANTS REPORTEDLY BEGAN
SELLING GOODS AT THE PRIVATE MERCHANT PRICES AND
KEEPING THE MARK-UP PROFIT FOR THEMSELVES.

4. NUMEROUS LAO SOURCES HAVE TOLD EMBOFF THAT SINCE
MAY 17 VIENTIANE CITY AUTHORITIES HAVE BEEN ROUNDING
UP PETTY CRIMINALS AND OTHERS FROM LISTS OF "SOCIAL
UNDESIRABLES" COMPILED IN SECRET BY VILLAGE AND
DISTRICT AUTHORITIES.

5. COMMENT: UNREALISTICALLY HIGH EVALUATION OF
THE "LIBERATION KIP", CRHONIC COMMODITY SHORTAGES,
ESPECIALLY IN FOODS AND MEDICINES, UNEMPLOYMENT/LOW
WAGES, AND INEFFICIENT GOVERNMENTAL ADMINISTRATION AND
ACCOUNTING PROCEDURES PRODUCE AN ENVIRONMENT IN
VIENTIANE THAT REMAINS HIGHLY CONDUCTIVE TO THE
DEVELOPMENT OF CORRUPTION AND PETTY THIEVERY.
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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 27-May-1977 12:00:00 am
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